

Rom. 14:19
So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

January
16
2022

PATIENTLY RUNNING THE RACE

by Jim Stauffer

After the Hebrew writer spends the entire eleventh chapter of the epistle giving example after example of faithful servants of God and the obstacles they overcame he says, *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”* (KJV Hebrews 12:1)

It is obvious the life we are called to live in His service will be demanding. We know Jesus was challenged, persecuted, ridiculed and eventually slain for His presentation of the truth and warned His disciples the same would come their way (Matthew 10:24,25; John 15:20).

Physically we understand how practice and exercise at what we are doing develops a tolerance or ability to endure. I played golf Thursday for the first time in nearly 3 months. Needless to say, my endurance was challenged. The reason was simple. I was not accustomed to that much physical exercise since winter had reduced the opportunities to play regularly.

Spiritually, we must train as well. Just as a good diet and exercise program helps in physical endeavors, it does also in spiritual challenges. We must prepare ourselves to sustain the effort necessary to stay the course until the end with appropriate intake of the *bread of life*. We must refresh ourselves with *living water*. Brethren, we must continue daily to take in the word of our Savior and we must daily exercise the use of it as we communicate with others. This is exactly what Jesus is teaching us when He says, *“Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.”* (John 6:54–55) And this is what the apostle Paul meant when He said, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the*

flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

We plan our whole lives to live eternally in the presence of the Lord. The only way that can happen is if we run the race with patience. If we can endure the hardships that come our way by trusting in the Lord. By allowing Him to live in us. Then we can as the Hebrew writer tells us, receive the promise. *“For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.”* (Hebrews 10:36)

THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI

When Paul and Silas left Antioch, embarking on what is commonly styled “Paul’s second missionary journey,” these preachers were continuing the work that began in Jerusalem in **Acts 2** on the Day of Pentecost. The Lord said, *“You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”* (Acts 1:8) The pattern continues, as now Paul and others make their way for the first time onto what we might call European soil. Answering the Macedonian call meant Paul would begin traversing the great cities of Macedonia and Achaia. In doing so the Apostle would establish relationships with churches - Christians - that meant much to him in subsequent years. Leaving Troas, located on the extreme northwest tip of Asia Minor, the travelers crossed the Aegean Sea and soon arrived at Philippi. Evidently, Paul linked up with Luke at Troas. *Acts 16:10* uses the pronoun “we” indicating that Luke was now part of this preaching effort.

Acts 16:12 says, *“And from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in the city for some days.”* Philippi is so named after Philip of Macedon (father of Alexander

continued on page 2

the Great) and eventually became a Roman colony. Its population included many soldiers who, in exchange for service to Caesar, were given land and opportunities in this choice area of northeast Macedonia. Roman colonies enjoyed the benefits of the crown - favorable taxes, good roads, military protection and business connections. Located on a main thoroughfare, Philippi was situated to do well in most every aspect of first century life. As a Roman colony the city also recognized its allegiance to the Emperor cult. And why not worship the Emperor? After all, he was the "god" that made all good things possible!

In this context Paul and others began their work of preaching. First, they met a godly woman, Lydia, a business woman, who sold expensive purple dye (purple was the color of royalty). She was a woman of some means, she had a household and had the ability to show hospitality to these traveling preachers. Lydia was a worshiper of God; she and other women had gathered by the riverbank for prayer. She heard the gospel; in doing so, the Lord opened her heart; she listened to the message Paul preached, she obeyed God's word. However, not only did Lydia hear and believe and obey the gospel; her household did the same. But no one in this conversion account obeyed the Lord before hearing and believing the gospel message. If there were people incapable of hearing and understanding the gospel (not accountable) then certainly Paul did not baptize them. If you are going to prove that "infant baptism" took place in **Acts 16**, the following would need to be true. Was Lydia a married woman with children? Were those children with her in Philippi? Were some of the children infants? Were these infant children baptized? Prove these necessary things and you might have a case for infant baptism. Anything short of absolute proof will not do. Did she have a husband? Luke does not mention it. Lydia said, "*Come to my house.*" Later (**Acts 16:40**) when Paul and Silas got out of prison, they went to *Lydia's house*. Bible baptism is for people who can hear, understand, and act upon the message of the Lord. Bible baptism is for those who are lost in sin; they understand their alienation from God because of their sin; they know they need to repent; they have sins from which to repent. None of this is true of babies.

Acts 16:14 says, "*The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.*" If her heart was opened, then wasn't her heart at some time closed? Why would a heart be closed? If Lydia was a proselyte, then misconceptions about the nature of the kingdom might be part of the picture. Christ was a stumbling block to many (**1 Corinthians 1:23**). Notice that Lydia

"*heard us.*" Then the Lord opened her heart. Is your heart closed? Have you heard the word of God and have yet to act upon that message? The Lord will do for you exactly what He did for Lydia. The question is: Do you want Him to?

Randy Harshbarger

HERE AND THERE

It has been almost a full month since I have posted an article. A good friend texted me and asked if I was going into the furniture making business full-time now. Well, not hardly!

But since we are going to continue with our series on excuses..... **1 Kings 20** Israel under Ahab, that wicked king, was battling Ben-Hadad, king of Syria. Now, Ben-Hadad has repeatedly proven himself an enemy to Israel, and God had told Ahab that He would deliver Ben-Hadad into his hands for his thought that God was only a God of the Mountains and not a God of the valleys, (**22-28**). God did give Israel the victory but Ahab let Ben-Hadad go with an agreement made in a chariot. At this one of the sons of the prophets had a man wound him so that he could approach King Ahab in disguise.

Following is their exchange:

"As the king passed by, he cried to the king and said, 'Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and behold, a man turned aside and brought a man to me and said, 'Guard this man; if for any reason he is missing, then your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.' "While your servant was busy here and there, he was gone." And the king of Israel said to him, "So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it." Then he hastily took the bandage away from his eyes, and the king of Israel recognized him that he was of the prophets. He said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have let go out of your hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.'" So the king of Israel went to his house sullen and vexed, and came to Samaria." (**1Kings 20:39ff**)

He got busy "here and there" and thus neglected his duty. Even wicked Ahab recognized this and when the prophet revealed himself to the king he saw his own doom, as he had pronounced fair judgment on the

prophet's ruse. His excuse was not acceptable, then or now!

We still use this same excuse today, don't we? It's the holiday season. It's Sunday. I have to do this or that. Don't I deserve...? One distraction after another and before you know it opportunities are gone and responsibilities are left unfulfilled. Don't let life, or salvation, pass you by!

Cleveland Reddinger

Our Daily Bread

The phrase is found within the Lord's prayer, recorded within the sermon on the mount (**Matt. 6**) as well as when a disciple asked Jesus to teach them to pray (**Lk. 11**). We have begun a daily Bible reading, with this week's passages being on the bottom left-hand corner of this page.

Our journey of faith should be a daily one. We have daily physical needs. We have daily spiritual needs, as we deny ourselves and take up our cross daily (**Lk. 9:23**). We are to be instrumental in each other's lives also, addressing physical and spiritual needs (**Jam. 2:15, Heb. 3:13**). Truly, our journey of faith is not just Sunday-only or Sunday and Wednesday.

Let's look at our phrase within the Lord's prayer. What lessons are there?

○ **A Dependency upon God** – He is the giver. He is the source. Whether we are talking about God being the giver of all that is good and perfect (**Jam. 1: 17,18**) or Jesus giving the water of life (**Jn. 4:14**), the Lord is the giver. We can no more forcibly take God's blessings than the Israelites could forcibly demand the manna. He gives.

○ **Our Needs** – Bread is being used to symbolize the necessities of life. We have physical needs and spiritual. *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God* (**Matt. 4:4**). James speaks to our physical needs and opportunities (**Jam. 2:16**), and Martha could not take Mary away from that which is most important (**Lk. 10:42**). We have needs. God does not (**Acts 17:25**).

○ **Our Faith** – Why our daily bread? Because each day has enough worries of its own (**Matt. 6:34**). Think of the manna again – Israel had to have faith that God would see them through tomorrow. Without faith, bread is not eaten. It is hoarded.

○ **Our Contentment** – Bread is simple. It is not the fatted calf or the lavish cake. With food and clothing,

we shall be content (**1 Tim. 6:8**), but life is more than food and clothing as well (**Matt. 6:25**). Jacob understood this lesson (**Gen. 28: 16-22**).

Let us be content, but also asking (**Lk. 11:9**). As the new year has begun, let's learn of and from our daily bread. Let us ask, seek, and knock, having confidence as we speak to God and listen to Him, receiving His gifts.

JH; Taken from 25th Street Bulletin

Seven Things Atheists Must Explain:

1. *Everything ultimately came from nothing,*
2. *Order came from an explosion (chaos),*
3. *Harmony came from discord,*
4. *Life came from non life,*
5. *Reason came from irrationality,*
6. *Personality came from non-personality,*
7. *Morality came from Amorality.*

Adjusted from Robert Morey. And as one author entitled his book, I don't have enough faith to be an atheist! TWB

We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ.

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Things taught in the Bible that people do not believe, and foster false teaching as a result.

That all Christians are saints?

Read: Eph. 1:1.

Please call us to study the Bible. It is refreshing.

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-620-0563

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons

Bill Miller

Joe Hurd

NEWS AND NOTES:

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick, Denese Goring, Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy Richardson, Tina Brofft, Matt Bassford, Cleveland Redding, David and Joanne Beckley, Zack Rogers, Mark Walker, Karen Henry, Jimmie Moore and Aaron Blount.

Bible Classes - Sunday Morning -
REVELATION - Bill Miller
Wednesday Evening - GENESIS -
Jim Stauffer

Sunday Sermon - THE DOCTRINE
OF CHRIST



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10